

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05743 121328Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 /025 W  
-----121014 122123Z /75

R 121219Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3138  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5743

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN  
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO  
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO DEPARTMENT R 121217Z AUG 77  
FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR INFO  
QUOTE  
UNCLAS

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY- TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: NEWS OF AGREEMENT  
ON BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR CANAL TREATY DOMINATE ALL MEDIA.  
BOTH TV NETWORKS AND MAJOR RADIO STATIONS CARRIED BUNKER/  
LINOWITZ AND PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR ESCOBAR STATEMENTS  
LIVE EVENING OF AUGUST 10. CHANNEL 4 DEVOTED MAJOR PART  
OF ITS LATER NEWSCAST TO INTERVIEWS WITH PANAMANIAN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 05743 121328Z

NEGOTIATORS.

2. ALL MORNINGS AUGUST 11 HEADLINE TREATY STORY. PRO-  
GOP CIRITCA'S BANNER HEAD READS, "TREATY: EXCLUSIVE  
INFORMATION ON NEW AGREEMENT." ENTIRE FRONT PAGE DEVOTED  
TO STORY, WITH OTHER STORIES HEADED, "THOSE WHO NEGOTIATE  
QUALIFY TREATY," "JOY TO THE WORLD" AND "NATIONAL HOLIDAY

TODAY".

3. PRO-GOP MATUTINO'S BANNER HEAD READS, "WITH NEW TREATY EXPENSIVE CONCEPTS SUCH AS PERPETUITY WILL DISAPPEAR, DECLARES ROMULO ESCOBAR." REST OF PAGE ONE IS DEVOTED TO BUNKER/LINOWITZ STATEMENT, WITH HEAD, "VIA LONG AND DIFFICULT PATH WE HAVE ACHIEVED NEW RELATIONSHIP BENEFICIAL FOR OUR COUNTRIES, STATES AMB. BUNKER."

4. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA AND SISTER ENGLISH STAR & HERALD ALSO LEAD FRONT PAGES WITH TREATY STORY, HEADED, "PANAMA AND U.S. ACHIEVE AGREEMENT FOR NEW CANAL TREATY: BASE FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP; POSITIVE STEP IN RELATIONS WITH LATAM; PANAMA RECOGNIZES STATURE OF U.S. NEGOTIATORS" IN LA ESTRELLA, AND "PANAMA AND U.S. ARRIVE AT HISTORIC AGREEMENT" IN STAR & HERALD.

5. ALL MORNINGS CARRY FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF BUNKER/LINOWITZ STATEMENT AND OF U.S. NEGOTIATORS MEETING WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS, AS WELL AS TORRIJOS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TODAY IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

6. LA ESTRELLA ALSO RUNS PAGE ONE AP LA PAZ STORY ON "REJOICING IN BOLIVIA" ABOUT NEW AGREEMENT. STAR & HERALD HAS AP WASHINGTON GEORGE GEDDA BYLINER, "HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT PAN CANAL."  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 05743 121328Z

7. CRITICA'S LEAD STORY BEGINS, "THAT WHICH FOR MANY YEARS WAS AN UNREALIZABLE DREAM OR A BITTER NIGHTMARE, HAS ENDED. 73 YEARS OF IGNOMINY AND 13 YEARS OF AN INTENSE DIPLOMATIC BATTLE HAVE GIVEN VICTORY TO RIVAL TO WHOM SPECULATORS DID NOT GIVE LEASE CHANGE BEFORE POWERFUL COMBATANT. PANAMA, BEFORE EYES OF WORLD, HAS RISEN WITH VICTORY, VICTORY WHICH ALL PEOPLE OF PLANET HAVE TAKEN AS THEIR OWN."

8. CRITICA STORY QUOTES UNNAMED SOURCE AS TO SEVERAL PROVISIONS OF TREATY, INCLUDING REDUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES AND PROTECTION OF WORKERS. PAPER USES AS TIME BASE SIGNING OF TREATY ITSELF, RATHER THAN RATIFICATION: "THE RAILROAD AND BALBOA AND CRISTOBAL PORTS WILL PASS TO PANAMA UPON SIGNING OF TREATY".

9. CRITICA PATS ITSELF ON THE BACK BY QUOTING AN UNNAMED PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR AS SAYING AUGUST 10 CRITICA HELPED PUSH NEGOTIATIONS ALONG, BY "ANNOUNCING CERTAIN INTRANSIGENCE ON PART OF U.S. NEGOTIATORS IN FINAL CONVERSATIONS."

10. CRITICA EDIT, "PANAMA HAS TRIUMPHED", SAYS TRIUMPH WAS "BECAUSE OF COURAGE OF ITS SONS, ITS LIBERTIAN ADVOCACY, BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THE INVADING BOOT MAINTAIN ITSELF IN PERPETUITY IN OUR TERRITORY... BECAUSE PANAMA KNEW HOW TO UNITE...ALL THE FORCES OF NATION, ... BECAUSE IN MOST ANGUISHING STEP OF FIERY FIGHT PANAMA HAS LEADER LIKE COMMANDER TORRIJOS AND TEAM OF NEGOTIATORS."

11. MATUTINO EDITORIALIZES THAT AGREEMENT WAS TRIUMPH FOR BOTH PARTIES, RESULTING FROM "CLIMATE OF RESPECT WITHIN DECISION, SOBRIETY IN GESTURES AND PARSIMONY OF WORDS (IN WHICH) IT WAS EASY FOR THE SEED OF UNDERSTAND-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PANAMA 05743 121328Z

ING TO GERMINATE, BE BORN AND BEAR FRUIT."

12. BOTH U.S. AND PANAMA PROFIT FROM AGREEMENT, SAYS MATUTINO: PANAMA BY ACHIEVING "DETERMINATION OF FIXED PERIOD FOR TERMINATION OF SITUATION WHICH HAD PRETENSIONS OF ETERNITY" AND U.S., WHICH NOW FREES ITSELF "FROM STIGMA OF SIN OF PREPONDERANCE, ARROGANCE AND INTRANSIGENCE, WHICH OBSCURED IMAGE OF ITS DEMOCRATIC WORLD LEADERSHIP". AT SAME TIME U.S. "HAS OBTAINED BY ITS GESTURE THE RESPECTFUL RECOGNITION OF AN ENTIRE CONTINENT AND THE CLEAR APPROVAL OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE THINKING POPULATION OF THE PLANET." THE ONLY PROMISE YET TO BE FULFILLED, SAYS MATUTINO, IS THAT WHICH THE SENATE MUST CARRY OUT, "FACING HISTORY, RIGHT, JUSTICE AND THE WORLD." ITEM  
UNQUOTE

JORDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA05743  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770291-0741  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770867/aaaaceqj.tel  
**Line Count:** 154  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c24b755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1617673  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTIONS FOLG SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO DEPARTMENT R 121217Z AUG 77 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD  
YOUR INFO  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c24b755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009